Architectural Thesis

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A UNIVERSITY GYMNASIUM

BY

AARON TRABUE SIMMONS

THESIS

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
IN ARCHITECTURE

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
1901

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THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE THESIS PREPARED UNDER MY SUPERVISION BY

Arthur Trabue Simmons

ENTITLED A Gymnasium

IS APPROVED BY ME AS FULFILLING THIS PART OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

OF Bachelor of Science in Architecture.

N. Clifford Ricker

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF Architecture.

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A University Gymnasium.

This thesis treats of a modern gymnasium to fulfill conditions existing at the University of Illinois. The various materials used in its construction are to be the products of the quarries, factories and mills of Illinois. Of the total number of men, observation indicates that seventy five per cent of the students and fifty per cent of the instructors would make use of gymnasium lockers, bathing facilities and gymnasium space. In regard to baths, it was decided to have a swimming pool, needle and shower baths, and steam baths. The size of the pool was determined from the requirements of water-polo, and had to be placed where it would be well lighted. A shower and needle bath for each eight men in training, and one for each fifty occasional frequenters was provided. Every room on the entire first floor is provided with outside light and air; and in order to gain still more light and cleanliness in bathing and dressing rooms, the interior finish of the first floor has been made of white enamaled brick, and the floor has been made of white tile. The form of the second floor was determined by the natural form required for a running track. A twelve lap track is the best suited to the amount of space which was to be enclosed, and gives the best division of laps for all recognized running distances. The building was made as narrow as the turns of the track would allow, so as to secure the longest possible straightaway. Since it is desirablethat at no time should anyone cross the running track, it was raised ten

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feet from the floor:- and since it is also desirable to see the entire course, nothing was allowed to obstruct the view of the track. At no place is it even possible for spectators to cross the track in passing from one point of interest to another. Indoor meets are becoming popular and require some means of accomodating a crowd large enough to insure financial success,- so arrangement was made for two ampitheatres with a seating capacity of over eight hundred, with flanking corridors accomodating five hundred more. Since round ends in a gymnasium are partially useless, it was decided to frankly cut off these ends and make them into ampitheatres with a boxing, wrestling and fencing ring in front of each. These ampitheatres are pierced by an open passage thirteen feet wide,- enough for four sprint lanes. These sprint lanes are two hundred and twenty feet long,- enough to accomodate a fifty yard dash. All parts of ampitheatres may be entered only from the corridor. All stairways from one floor to another are equally accessible to persons on gymnasium floor or in spectators space. The necessary rooms for storage for gymnasium apparatus were provided for under the higher portion of the ampitheatre. For use in case of balls, receptions and other forms of gatherings, large toilet and dressing rooms for ladies and gentlemen are provided under ampitheatre. The main floor and track have a seating capacity of four thousand, and arrangement was made for a storage room for at least three thousand foulding chairs, and this has been provided for under the lower portion of ampitheatre. Since handball is becoming one of the popular pastimes of the

gymnasium, ample provision has been made for excellent courts. The arrangement allows for five courts,- lighted by skylight, with side as well as front walls, and free from interference from other persons on the gymnasium floor. The bowling alleys are placed back of the handball courts so as to deaden, as far as possible, the necessary noise.